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Winnipeg metro

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017

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BIG FIT GIRL
ATHLETES OF ALL SIZES
metroLIFE

The Jets' Patrik Laine has recorded 15 points (eight goals, seven assists) in 11 games , giving him 56 points in 56 games overall. He now leads Toronto's Auston Matthews by one point in the rookie scoring race.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

AHEAD OF THE PACK

LAINE WINS NHL ROOKIE OF THE MONTH

PLUS:
- The Jets' sobering reality check
- So long, Stafford: NHL trade details

metroSPORTS

WEST END WITCH'S VANDALISM WOES

'It's absolutely without a doubt a hate crime,' says storeowner

metroNEWS

'WE LOVE OUR MUSLIM FAMILY'

Anti-fascist activists to counter free speech rally

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Kelly Knight Craft a front-runner to be ambassador to Canada. **World**

LEGALIZATION

Colorado marijuana expert coming to town

If money doesn't grow on trees, does it grow on plants with long, skinny leaves?

Winnipeg's business community will ponder the implications of Canada's impending cannabis legalization, and the industry it will create, at an upcoming chamber of commerce event March 17.

"When it becomes the law, it's the law — and we need to figure out how to make it work," said Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce President Loren Remillard.

With Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal government poised to introduce legislation for legalization this spring, as flashily promised during his election campaign, Remillard said there's much to consider.

"Beyond the new industry itself — with its regulations and revenue — there are issues raised for human resource professionals, doctors, banks, law enforcement," he said.

That's why he has invited Jeannine Machon, owner of Colorado-based marijuana retailer CMT Labs and an expert on the subject matter, to speak to chamber members.

"It'd be foolish to not look at the Colorado 'test case' to see what's worked in their cities," Remillard said. BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

MEETING

The "When Legalization Comes to Winnipeg" discussion will take place at the Fairmont Winnipeg March 17 at 11:30 a.m.

SKATING

Old Market Square turned into test rink

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Residents working, living or simply walking by Old Market Square will notice a new addition to the Exchange District.

A rink has popped up, but don't grab your skates and lace up quite yet, explains Nick Van Seggelen, a managing partner at Bodegoes and one of two minds behind the project.

The other is Mike Del Buono, owner of King and Bannatyne.

Being a nearby business owner and board member on the Exchange District BIZ, he says he recognizes the benefit of having winter programming at The Cube, which serves as a popular entertainment venue in the summer, but dies out in winter.

A skating rink is just one part of that, Van Seggelen explains, saying there's opportunity for partnerships with organizers at Festival Du Voyageur and The Forks to bring new activities to the square.

From music shows to curling bonspiels, "the opportunities are endless," he said.

Witchcraft store targeted by vandals

RELIGION

Owner of west end shop calls for an end to 'hate crime'

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

The owner of a west end pagan shop where store windows were broken "again" this week has a message for her tormentors, who she believes target her for her religious beliefs.

"Allow yourself to be educated with the realities of different spiritual practices — if you don't want to be educated, that's perfectly fine, but what's not fine is trying to suppress people's access to their own spiritual places," said Dominique Smith, owner of Elemental Book & Curiosity Shop.

Smith, who identifies as a witch, offers supplies for those who practice witchcraft, paganism, or other earth-based spirituality out of the shop.

But since the very week she began doing so in October 2010, she has been inundated with harassment — which is why she believes she's the victim of a hate crime.

"Right from the very beginning it started," she said. "Religious pamphlets came daily telling us witchcraft is evil and all of these things… From organizations that identify as Christian, telling us we need to repent."

Dominique Smith, owner of Elemental Book and Curiosity Shop, stands next to her store's broken window on Wednesday. LYLE STAFFORD/FOR METRO

> **Hundreds of incidents of vandalism, urine, spit… We've been egged.** Dominique Smith

It escalated gradually, but the religious messaging turned into after-hours vandalism before long, and soon became the norm.

"Hundreds of incidents of vandalism, urine, spit… We've been egged, I've had so many things happen that I've forgotten some of it," Smith said, noting she once had to board up her door after it was destroyed.

The windows of her store were smashed for the first time in 2012 and twice since, most recently Sunday night.

In most cases, she just cleans or fixes it up herself, and when it's bad she makes a complaint to the police, but she said their response does not fit the crime.

"I've been told by the police that it's a low priority, it is considered mischief, there's no threat of harm," she said, noting it's not "just mischief" because neighbouring businesses don't receive the same treatment. She thinks it's something more sinister.

"It absolutely without a doubt a hate crime," she said.

The Criminal Code defines a hate crime involving property as mischief "based on bias, prejudice or hate based on religion, race, colour or national or ethnic origin."

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IMMIGRANTS

Protests against proposed newcomer application fee

Concerned citizens rallied at the Manitoba legislature Wednesday to protest proposed changes to the province's newcomer application process. The changes to the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program (MPNP) would include the addition of a $500 non-refundable fee starting in April for would-be immigrants.

The fee would apply to those who have entered an "expression of interest" pool the government designed, saying they want to be contacted when their preferred lines of work becomes available in Manitoba. "We don't know how this fee will speed up the backlog that they're claiming is happening in the office," said Anthony Huynh, an organizer with the Save the MPNP Coalition.

"I think they're saying that this will speed up the process but they don't really specify (how)," he said. "Many have argued that this is sort of Winnipeg's own version of the Trump wall, because we're making immigration more difficult for newcomers."

In a November news release, the provincial government announced an overhaul of the MPNP system, with a focus on fast-tracking skilled workers and entrepreneurs' applications. Last week, in an interview with Metro, Minister of Education and Training Ian Wishart said the province's goal is to eliminate its backlog of about 1,200 MPNP applications by April 1.

Zita Somakoka's uncle has been in that queue for about two years, she said in an interview Wednesday. He's trying to immigrate from Guinea and she's trying to get him an analyst job in his preferred field of economics. Somakoka said it's difficult for would-be immigrants to secure job offers from abroad and the government shouldn't expect all immigrants to be able to do so.

"Employers here are very skeptical. They're not always into innovation or video interviews, like the other big provinces are. We are not there yet," she said.

JESSICA BOTELHO-URBANSKI/FOR METRO

Emmanuel Allieu (right) leads chants and acts as emcee at the Save the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program rally at the Manitoba legislature Wednesday. JESSICA BOTELHO-URBANSKI/FOR METRO

POLITICS

Manitoba Tory MLAs giving back cost of living increase this year

Manitoba Progressive Conservative legislature members are taking a voluntary wage freeze for the coming year.

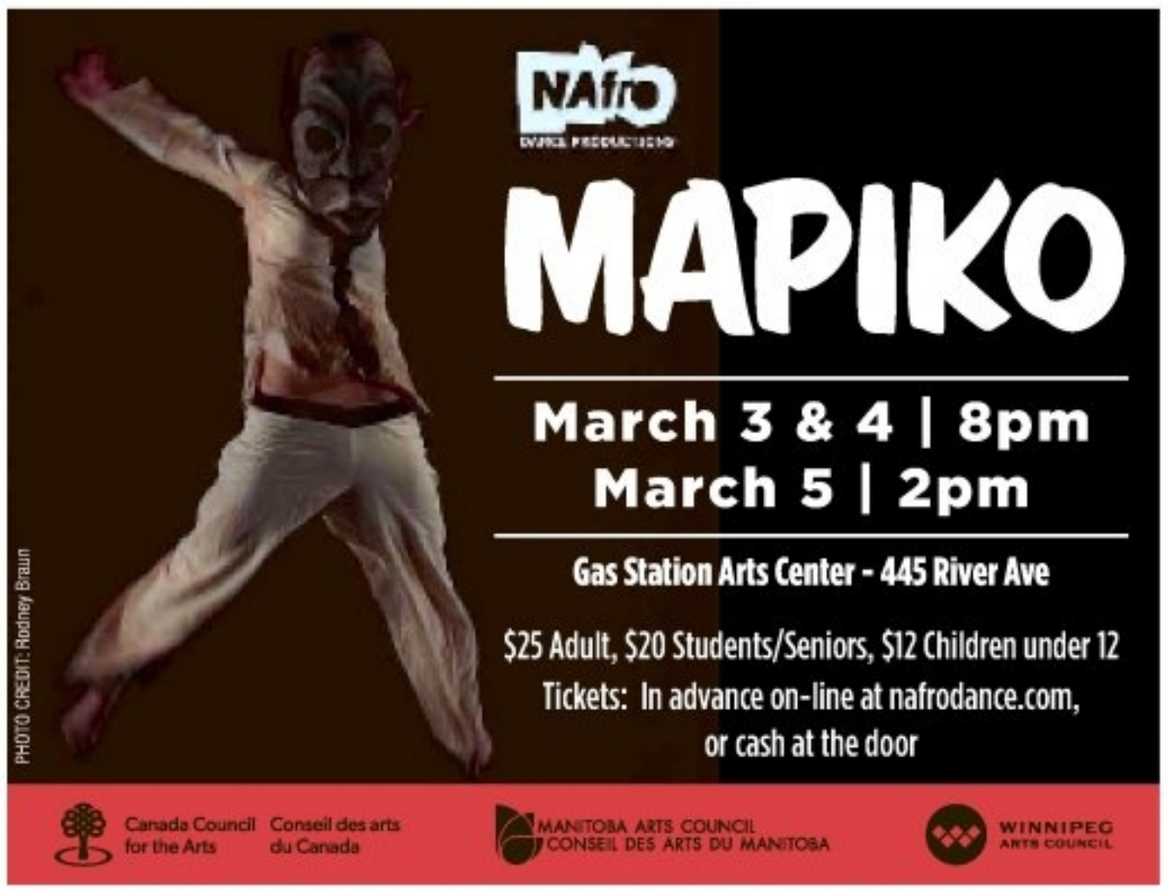
Premier Brian Pallister says his 40-member caucus will refund a 1.6 per cent cost of living increase that is set to kick in automatically April 1.

Pallister says the wage freeze also applies to the extra salaries given to cabinet ministers and himself.

The move comes as the Tory government plans to curb the growth in public-sector salaries, although Pallister has refused so far to reveal details.

Pallister says his caucus is signalling that everyone has to play a part in helping to fight the province's billion-dollar deficit. The former NDP government also took a voluntary wage freeze when it negotiated a freeze for civil servants.

THE CANADIAN PRESS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Omar Kinnarath, an organizer with FF1-Fascist Free Treaty 1, will be demonstrating at City Hall this Saturday. JESSICA BOTELHO-URBANSKI/FOR METRO

Anti-fascists to oppose rally

DIVERSITY

'Concerned citizens' group to face competition

Jessica Botelho-Urbanski
For Metro | Winnipeg

Competing rallies will be vying for Winnipeggers' attentions on Saturday, showing free speech is "alive and well" locally, according to one human rights professor.

The first rally, organized by the Canadian Coalition of Concerned Citizens, drew ire from an anti-fascist activist group online. FF1 — Fascist Free Treaty 1 then created its own rally to oppose the coalition's.

Both rallies are scheduled to begin between 11:30 a.m. and noon at City Hall on Saturday.

The Canadian Coalition of Concerned Citizens opposes M-103, a motion put forth by Ontario MP Iqra Khalid to condemn Islamophobia and study religious discrimination in all forms. In a phone interview Wednesday, the group's Montreal-based creator Georges Hallak said he's helping organize concurrent marches in 66 cities across the country to protest the motion.

"I'm talking to many people and they're just not happy. Anyone that talks about (M-103) is threatened and called an 'Islamophobe,' a word that doesn't exist in the dictionary," Hallak said.

(The word does exist in the dictionary and according to Merriam-Webster means someone with an "irrational fear of, aversion to, or discrimination against Islam or people who practice Islam.") Hallak said the Winnipeg rally will be a peaceful demonstration with anti-Justin Trudeau signs, Canadian flags and singing of the national anthem.

The Concerned Citizens' march doesn't seem to be attracting many interested participants in Winnipeg, according to its online event listing. The Facebook invitation list for the event is no longer listed publicly, though earlier this week it said only 11 people were attending.

"Quebec has an organizer in every city. People are really into it. I don't know what the story is with the rest of Canada," Hallak said. "I think they're scared. And it's enough of this being scared that we can't even talk about Islam."

> **Anyone that talks about (M-103) is threatened and called an 'Islamophobe,' a word that doesn't exist in the dictionary.**
> CCCC's creator Georges Hallak

Hallak said he's worried M-103 is a first step toward Muslims enacting Sharia law in Canada — even though there is no mention of Sharia law in the motion. Hallak, a Christian immigrant from Lebanon who sells comic books online, said he's worried the government is muzzling Canadians' abilities to critique faith and "elevating Islam over any other belief in Canada."

Omar Kinnarath, a Winnipeg-based salesman and organizer with FF1 — Fascist Free Treaty 1, shot down Hallak's reasoning point blank.

"Groups like the CCCC, they're only bringing out the extreme interpretation of Islam and painting all Muslims with that one brush. They're not taking into account everyday Muslims like me," Kinnarath said. "They have some sort of fear that our country is going to be under Sharia law, which is impossible because Muslims are a minority here."

Kinnarath said his group is enlisting poets, performers and respected members of the local Muslim community to speak at their rally. Nearly 500 people have indicated they'll be attending on Facebook.

"As a community we have to come out and say, that's not our way of thinking. That's not in line with our values. We believe in diversity and inclusion," he said. "We love our Muslim community, we love our Muslim family and you guys can try (protesting) somewhere else because it's not going to fly on Treaty One territory."

Kristi Kenyon, an assistant human rights professor at the University of Winnipeg's Global College, said if anything, the duelling rallies show freedom of expression is "quite alive and well in Canada." "(M-103) is one person's motion. These are the words that they have chosen. People are certainly at liberty to disagree," Kenyon said.

"But to me, interpreting this text as saying it's holding Islam above all other faiths and saying it's threatening freedom of speech, I don't see that in the text. That to me seems a bit of a stretch."

Eadie quits Manitoba Taxicab Board

TRANSPORTATION

Mynarski councillor cites attempts to court Uber

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Coun. Ross Eadie is stepping down as a member of the Manitoba Taxicab Board.

The Mynarski councillor announced his resignation in a message circulated to board members, city council and reporters on Wednesday.

Eadie, who is the council-appointed representative on the board, attributes part of his decision to step down to Mayor Brian Bowman's recent comments surrounding Uber.

During last week's state of the city address, Bowman pledged to work with the provincial taxicab board to attract the popular ridesharing company to the city.

"He did not communicate whatsoever with me before giving the impression simply bringing in Uber will somehow make a big city," said Eadie of Bowman in his letter.

"Without communicating with him, I don't even know if he knows anything about the possible regression of taxi service to Winnipeggers if not handled properly."

In his letter, Eadie encourages Bowman to sit on the board himself and "immerse" himself in industry issues.

A statement from the mayor's office said Bowman is a big supporter of all types of innovation and knows there's a big appetite among residents for app-based ridesharing companies to enter the city.

"This should come as no surprise to Coun. Eadie who has been opposed to Uber and innovation in the taxicab industry for quite some time," Bowman's communications director Jonathan Hildebrand wrote in a statement to Metro.

Eadie says he's also resigning because of a recent disagreement with board chairman Randy Williams over allowing transportation network companies, such as Uber and Lyft.

We cannot create a two tier, dysfunctional taxi industry.
Coun. Ross Eadie

Mayor Brian Bowman has pledged to work with the taxicab board to attract Uber to the city. METRO FILE

"We cannot create a two tier, dysfunctional taxi industry. Safety and one's ability to make a living are very important components to Winnipeggers," Eadie says in his letter.

Williams said the topic of Uber came up following the release of a consultant's report last December that recommended 40 ways to improve the industry, which included allowing ridesharing companies to operate in the city.

He believes the model for these companies to set up shop already exists under the executive car class, arguing the only difference is that Uber uses an app.

According to Williams, an executive car is simply a vehicle with a carpet, air conditioning, power windows and cloth or leather seats.

Like a ridesharing service, an executive car service does not use a meter, has a sliding rate and can be pre-booked, he explained.

"My opinion is we already have this, Coun. Eadie's opinion is we shouldn't have this," said Williams.

An in-camera report obtained by Metro shows Uber drivers would be allowed to register under this category, and would be required to have both a taxi driver's licence and taxi business licence.

The report shows the board lacks the legislative authority to license dispatch services without a change to The Taxicab Act and would need to tweak some of its regulatory criteria for Uber.

Williams says Eadie's resignation did not come as a surprise after Bowman's pro-Uber comment, which caught board members off guard.

That was the first time the board heard the city was interested in welcoming Uber, despite Eadie's representation on the board, Williams explained.

"There's disconnect there at the city hall level."

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‘A drunk can consent’

HALIFAX

Judge acquits taxi driver of sex assault

Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

A Halifax taxi driver found with an intoxicated, unconscious, mostly naked woman in his cab and her DNA on his mouth has been acquitted of sexual assault by a judge who said there wasn’t enough evidence to prove the woman’s “lack of consent.”

Judge Gregory Lenehan ruled that Bassam Al-Rawi was not guilty of sexual assault in Halifax provincial court on Wednesday after he stood trial last month for a May 23, 2015 incident.

The complainant was found by police in Al-Rawi’s cab around 1:20 a.m., passed out after a night of drinking and being turned away from a downtown bar. Her belongings were spread around the car as she lay in the backseat with her feet up on the two front seats, only a shirt partially covering her breasts.

Al-Rawi’s pants were partially undone and sitting lower on his body, the court heard. As police approached, they saw his seat was reclined and he attempted to hide the woman’s pants and underwear.

Part of the evidence the Crown presented was a toxicology report showing the 26-year-old complainant would’ve had a concentration of between 223 and 244 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood when police found her.

Crown attorney Ron Lacey said during the trial there was ample evidence non-consensual touching had occurred, and anyone that intoxicated could not consent to anything.

“Clearly a drunk can consent,” Lenehan said. There’s no doubt the complainant was unconscious when she was found by police so at that moment she was unable to consent, Lenehan said — but what’s unknown is when exactly she passed out and “that’s important.”

A family from Somalia is helped by Mounties along the U.S.-Canada border. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Poll reveals attitudes toward refugees

A newly released federal survey on attitudes towards immigration suggests Canadians are somewhat more enthusiastic about accepting economic migrants than they are about refugees.

While 52 per cent of those polled in the Immigration Department’s annual tracking study felt the right number of immigrants were coming to Canada, 23 per cent thought it was too high.

Meanwhile, 40 per cent felt the right number of refugees was being admitted and 30 per cent thought that figure was too high.

The 2016 survey was done long before immigration and refugee policy became a centrepiece of the U.S. presidential campaign and the eventual new administration of Donald Trump, and before the question of what values immigrants to Canada ought to hold became a centrepiece of Conservative leadership politics here.

So while the data might not reflect how attitudes have shifted since those developments, it’s telling for what it was probing for in the first place, suggested Jack Jedwab, the executive vice president of the Association for Canadian Studies and co-chairman of an upcoming conference on integration and immigration.

“I think what the government is trying to get at is the issue of the extent to which people are more preoccupied by the increase in refugees that’s happening in a lot other places in the world,” he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

National digest

Swastikas in classroom
Toronto police are investigating after two chalk drawings of swastikas were found in a classroom at York University.

The university said an anti-Semitic statement was also discovered in the classroom. The graffiti was found in the Victor Dahdaleh Building at around 8 a.m. Monday. Freya Clews, a 22-year-old student, said she noticed a commotion at the front when class began.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

University evacuated
Three Concordia University buildings in Montreal that were evacuated after the institution received bomb threats targeting Muslim students were re-opened Wednesday evening. CP

Arson at Islamic centre
Toronto police say a fire at an Islamic centre Tuesday night is being investigated as an act of arson.

Emergency crews were notified of a fire on the roof of the Reign of Islamic Da’wah. No one was in the building at the time and there were no injuries. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Muslim ban under revision

IMMIGRATION

U.S. officials reveal softer approach

President Donald Trump's new immigration order will remove Iraq from the list of countries whose citizens face a temporary U.S. travel ban, American officials say, citing the latest draft in circulation. Trump is expected to sign the executive order in the coming days.

Four officials told The Associated Press that the decision followed pressure from the Pentagon and State Department, which had urged the White House to reconsider Iraq's inclusion on the list given its key role in fighting Daesh.

Citizens of six other predominantly Muslim countries — Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen — will remain on the travel ban list, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the order before it is signed. Those bans are effective for 90 days.

The new order includes other changes as well. The officials said the 12-page document no longer singles out Syrian refugees for an indefinite ban and instead includes them as part of a general, 120-day suspension of new refugee admissions.

The officials also said the order won't include any explicit exemption for religious minorities in the countries targeted by the travel ban. Critics had accused the administration of adding such language to help Christians get into the United States while excluding Muslims.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment.

Trump signed his original executive order in late January. It sparked immediate confusion, panic and outrage as some travellers were detained in U.S. airports before being sent back overseas and others were barred from boarding flights at foreign airports.

Protesters march in New York's Times Square in solidarity with American Muslims and against the travel ban ordered by U.S. President Donald Trump on Feb. 19, 2017. GETTY IMAGES

ECONOMY

If President Donald Trump's hardline stance on illegal immigration leads to large-scale deportations, among those hurt could be the economy.

That's the view of many economists, who say the country can't afford to lose immigrants who work illegally picking fruit and vegetables, building houses, busing tables, and more.

Immigrants living illegally in the U.S. account for roughly 18 per cent of employment in agriculture, 13 per cent in construction and 10 per cent at restaurants, hotels and casinos, according to National Bureau of Economic Research study.

The federal government initially blocked U.S. green card holders before offering those legal residents special permission to come into the country. It finally decided the order didn't apply to them. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

POLITICS

Political donor likely envoy to Canada

A big-money political donor and philanthropist with personal ties to the coal industry and professional connections to the White House and the U.S. Senate is expected to be named Donald Trump's ambassador to Canada.

Expectations within government, as well as recent media speculation, point to the Trump administration submitting Kelly Knight Craft's name for the approval of the Senate.

Knight Craft would recognize some friendly faces in that chamber — starting with that of top Senate leader Mitch McConnell. She woman has donated to and co-chaired fundraising efforts over the years for her home-state senator.

The chamber McConnell presides over is expected to deal with major issues affecting Canada over the coming years, including trade disputes, and the potential renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

She has a history in philanthropy.

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Morneau on 'getting-to-know-you' trip

TRADE

Too early to challenge U.S. border tax idea, minister says

The flurry of Canadian cabinet members visiting Washington continued apace Wednesday as Finance Minister Bill Morneau dropped in on a U.S. capital awash in policy debates with big implications for America's northern neighbour.

Morneau called it a getting-to-know-you session so the Canadian government can have the lines of communication ready as the Trump administration settles on wide-reaching policies involving tax reform and trade.

Morneau is U.S. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin's first visiting finance minister since taking office.

The U.S. is beginning discussions on a once-in-a-generation tax reform that could affect Canada in significant ways — with lower corporate rates in the U.S. and a border tax both under consideration. But the reforms are being hotly debated.

With all that uncertainty, Morneau described his meeting more as personal bridge-building than policy-making. He said he didn't delve into Canadian objections to the border-tax idea, which has strong pockets of opposition within Congress and the administration itself. "When he spoke about tax reform, he did not go into specifics.... At this stage, without details, it's not a time for us to express support, or opposition, or even insights into the impact on the Canadian economy," Morneau said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finance Minister Bill Morneau and U.S. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin meet in Washington. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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EATING OUT

McDonald's plots to woo back loyal fans

McDonald's acknowledged on Wednesday that it lost 500 million customer transactions in the U.S. since 2012 and laid out its plans to get more people back into its restaurants — including by letting them order and pay on their mobile phones by the end of the year.

The world's biggest burger chain said it lost some of its loyal fans to other major fast-food chains, rather than to newer rivals. It also said it will more aggressively market items such as coffee and pastries to draw customers.

McDonald's outlined its plans after having recorded its fourth straight year of declining guest counts at established U.S. locations in 2016, despite the fanfare over the rollout of an all-day breakfast menu.

The chain hadn't previously specified when it would make mobile order-and-pay and curbside pickup available. Starbucks Corp. already offers the option that the coffee chain has hailed as a success.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

150 WAYS of looking at Canada

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CHANTAL HÉBERT ON LIBERAL INFIGHTING

Perceived gaps between Trudeau's words and his party's actions could have a corrosive cost to his brand.

Alan DeSousa has been the mayor of Montreal's Saint-Laurent borough since it was created 15 years ago. Initially elected on the ticket of mayor Gérald Tremblay, he survived the corruption scandals that marked that era and was re-elected as part of Denis Coderre's team in 2013.

When DeSousa declared his intention to run for the Liberal nomination in Saint-Laurent — the riding just vacated by former foreign affairs minister Stéphane Dion — he was considered if not a shoo-in, at least a highly competitive candidate.

Neither of his two rivals, former Quebec immigration minister Yolande James and Marwah Rizqi, a professor at Sherbrooke University who ran for the Liberals in Hochelaga in the 2015 election, could boast roots as deep in the riding.

There was no doubt that DeSousa would not have been Justin Trudeau's preferred choice. The prime minister has made gender parity a defining feature of his cabinet. Women account for only one quarter of the Liberal caucus. The government could use more cabinet-ready female MPs.

Trudeau has replaced Chrétien's somewhat brutal clarity by an opaque vetting process.

James — given her experience in the Quebec cabinet and the fact that some of her former ministerial staffers toil in the backrooms of Parliament Hill — was considered to have the inside track with the party establishment.

Some of the organizers who helped secure Heritage Minister Mélanie Joly's 2015 nomination in a neighbouring riding were asked to lend a hand again. If James was going to have a shot at beating her two opponents, she needed all the help she could get. With the byelection set for April 3, she was also going to have to hit the ground running to sign up enough members to win the nomination.

That was last week. On Tuesday, DeSousa revealed that the Liberal party had barred him from vying for the nomination. In the letter he shared with the media, no reason was given.

Privately, party insiders point to DeSousa's association with the discredited Tremblay administration. As a member of the city's executive committee he was part of the mayor's inner circle. In 2013, his borough's offices were among those raided by Quebec's anti-corruption unit.

Still, DeSousa was never charged. If he is guilty of anything in the eye of the federal Liberal brass, it is by association.

For the residents of Saint-Laurent it is, to say the least, awkward to be told that their long-serving mayor does not, for some unspecified reason, pass the smell test of Trudeau's Liberal party. From the perspective of DeSousa and his supporters, it is also a convenient way to remove him from contention.

Some Liberals in Markham-Thornhill are also crying foul after the party retroactively set Feb. 14 as the cut-off date to recruit members for a March 4 nomination vote.

One of Trudeau's senior advisers, Mary Ng, is running for the Liberal nomination in the riding vacated by former immigration minister John McCallum. Her rivals claim the move is designed to give her an edge on the competition.

In his days as leader, Jean Chrétien made no apologies for parachuting star candidates into some of the party's safest seats.

Immediately prior to and just after the 1995 Quebec referendum, Chrétien appointed Lucienne Robillard, Stéphane Dion and Pierre Pettigrew to safe Montreal seats.

At the time he desperately needed more francophone Quebecers at the cabinet table. It is far from certain that an open nomination process would have resulted in the selection by local Liberal members of any of the three ridings.

Chrétien used the same route to ensure he had more women in his candidate lineup.

He took hits for short-circuiting the process, but at least his rationale for doing so and his method were transparent. Chrétien also took responsibility for imposing his choice on a given riding.

Officially, Trudeau has renounced that leader's prerogative. Early on, he pledged to have open nomination meetings in every riding. But in reality, he has replaced Chrétien's somewhat brutal clarity by an opaque vetting process for which neither he nor party officials seem to be accountable.

Regardless of the outcome of the Liberal infighting, there is little doubt that the party will hold Saint-Laurent and Markham-Thornhill on April 3.

But this is not the first instance where there is a perceived gap between the prime minister's words and the actions of his party and his government, and such episodes accumulate at corrosive cost to Trudeau's brand.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

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Tory leadership race or avant-garde art show?

Vicky Mochama
Metro

As an art project, the Conservative leadership race has taken on an avant-garde feeling. They've excelled at abstraction: 14 candidates that are distinguishable only with an angling of the head or a squint.

Yet two have found a way to stand out as only one can in 2017: Internet videos.

In a rather intriguing film from 2011 surfaced by Press Progress, Kevin O'Leary is shaving in a bright marble bathroom while wearing a towel around his waist.

For all the Trump comparisons, O'Leary's bathroom looks more like my parents' than a gold-embossed penthouse. He is also shaving his own face, which is a humble move for a titan of industry. (Perhaps the butler was holding the camera?)

In advance of a morning appearance via Skype, O'Leary gripes that all his bosses at the CBC are women, saying, "The thing about the CBC I gotta tell you guys, is the whole place is run by women.... It's ridiculous."

To "get back at them," as O'Leary puts it, he vows to not wear pants. "I never do," he says, as the camera pans down threateningly.

Sure, it's offensive to women, but as a piece of art, it is incisive and compelling. The viewers must ask themselves: Is O'Leary reverse-complimenting women by insulting them?

Is it a performance art piece of a lone man, naked and shorn, yet somehow harmed by women? I call it Wounded Masculinity and the Art of Shaving.

Or, it may be a commentary on the obsessive pettiness that comes when working from home alone too long. Truly, I have borne witness to the human condition, and it is a video of Kevin O'Leary topless and shaving.

The second video is a critique of video as a form. In it, Kellie Leitch presents her vision that all who enter Canada — immigrant, tourist, person on a layover to Seattle — must have a face-to-face interview with an immigration officer. That is not new information from the Leitch campaign. What is fresh is the visual journey.

As Leitch waxes on Canadian values like tolerance and faces (I could not hear the rest for the beauty), she wanders in and out of the light. At times, she sits briefly then hurtles back towards the camera. When you least expect, she takes a deep breath as if to say, "Life is a series of breaths. And some of those breaths are taken by immigrants who are a threat to our borders."

Few auteurs can execute one resonant silence, let alone several of them. To do so while playing with motion, light and shadow is no less than mastery.

As the May 27 leadership election draws nearer, one can only hope for more challenging Conservative art.

Fingers crossed for a rap about the carbon tax.

Spring Parade Showcase

BY MIKE MOORE, PRESIDENT, MANITOBA HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION

"WE ARE PROUD AND DELIGHTED TO SHOWCASE 38 DIFFERENT BUILDERS WHO WILL BE PRESENTING 131 HOMES IN 36 UNIQUE AND DIFFERENT NEIGHBOURHOODS."

WELCOME TO THE 2017 SPRING PARADE OF HOMES. The The Manitoba Home Builders' Association is pleased to present our annual showcase of new homes, the largest and best Parade of Homes in all Canada.

When we think of March, we think of Spring, warmer weather and finally being able to get outside to walk. Although not as bad as some in recent memory, it has still been another cold winter and we've been waiting for the opportunity to visit the various new neighbourhoods throughout our city and province as they come to life with these fabulous new homes. We are proud and delighted to showcase 38 different builders who will be presenting 131 homes in 36 unique and different neighbourhoods. The Parade show homes represent the absolute best in design and construction in Manitoba. The skilled craftsmanship that goes into each new home will be evident during your visit. We take great pride in the statement that Manitoba new homes are the best built homes in the country.

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Mike Moore, President
Manitoba Home Builders' Association

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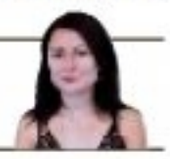
Q&A

Big Fit Girl author wants more diversity in fitness culture

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada



Louise Green woke up on the morning she was to run her first half-marathon in 2013 feeling excited. But when she approached the sign-in desk to pick up her race kit, one of the staffers automatically reached for the 5K packet — less than a fourth of the distance she had signed up to run. This crushed her confidence.

"My body size communicated to him that I was not physically capable of running the event's longer race," writes Green in her new book, Big Fit Girl, out March 17.

Green, 45, who runs her own fitness business in Vancouver, is a runner, boxer and body activist. She believes that athletes come in all sizes and builds and that there needs to be more diversity in fitness culture.

What is it going to take for us to see more size diversity in fitness culture?

It's up to people to really be seen. A lot of women will still remain apprehensive or intimidated by fitness — and I believe they have a right to feel that way because it's scary when you don't see yourself represented. There's an element of the unknown. I think more brands and the media culture supporting fitness need to broaden their spectrum of stories and imagery.

In true mainstream fitness magazines, you're not seeing women that are over a size 6. So if we could just start to see size 12; maybe size 14; a mixture? What I'm wanting is an accurate representation of women. That's really what we're asking for, and that's what I think is going to change the fitness culture to make it more approachable. When somebody can see themselves, it inspires them.

Some fitness stars say they're about body positivity, but their Instagrams are full of before and after photos. Are you worried that the body positivity movement is being co-opted?

I agree with you; often you're seeing a body-positive message but the imagery — and when you dig deep into the actual message — is still the same message of conforming to a smaller version of yourself. I don't know that that's intentional. I think that many women are so incredibly programmed, as we all have been at some point, to believe that is 'body positive' and the way to health.

I had this conversation yesterday with a friend of mine: what I actually have to endure for a month to lose, say 3 pounds, is white-knuckling deprivation. Some bodies will lose weight easily and some won't.

Is it then the job of the body activist to call out instances that we see where we feel like the message isn't healthy?

I do call out certain things that I think are absurd but I don't point fingers and name names, I just give examples.

People have good intentions but I think my job is to just educate people on what I think and what I have experienced after working with literally over a thousand women who fall outside of the athletic norm. When you're somebody's trainer they really open up to you and I have really intimate conversations with these women. There's definitely a common theme throughout all of them. And I've experienced it as a plus-size woman myself, so I will make a point of trying to educate from that experience.

I got the sense the food section in your book was carefully written.

I didn't want it to appear like a diet. I wanted women to explore what works for them. I'm really against people feeling hungry. I don't believe in hunger and starvation — I don't think that fits an athletic model at all. So I really wanted women to reframe their thinking.

If you're looking at really living like an athlete ... eat as much as your body needs, but it should be nutritionally dense if you're wanting to perform better the next time you go out. And I also believe in having cake and celebrating life when the time is right.

Sometimes a form of body shaming comes from doctors who use weight and BMI as a way to measure health. Do you reject these measurements?

I have chosen my doctors very carefully and that's what I'm asking people to do in the book. Because even when I was my thinnest, I was way outside of the BMI chart. I'm a heavy person even in a thinner frame. So those numbers have haunted me for a long time. All I could think in my mind is "I'm supposed to be 130 pounds, and I can't get there." I think it does more damage than good, to be honest. I think that many people — like my husband for example he's very muscular, and he's considered obese. I think that it's an OK guideline but I don't think it's a great method of measurement.

Is there an alternative measurement that you would support?

I see why people would want to ask that question because we don't want to see people that are immobile because of weight. But I don't think that I want to really comment on what kind of size we should expect of people, or how we should measure it, but just to get people really living their healthiest life: trying to eat nutritionally dense food and moving your body. And then I really truly think that your body will find its right size.

What does fit mean to you?

Somebody who's fit is somebody who is setting goals; is regularly active; who regularly challenges themselves. I have some people that come to my classes that don't go as far as they could. I think people really need to ask themselves: "Am I challenging myself, am I sweating, am I breathing heavily, is my heart rate up?" Getting their heart rate up every week on a regular basis is going to produce a fit person.

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A domestic duel under the covers

NON-FICTION

Writing couple match wits and parry in essays on marriage

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

Writerly couple Stephen Marche and his wife, Toronto Life editor Sarah Fulford, have a new book out on modern relationships. CONTRIBUTED

Stephen Marche's 2,200-word essay on the persisting gender divide surrounding housework — which he refers to as "intimate drudgery" — caused a firestorm of angry responses when it first published in the New York Times Sunday Review back in 2013.

The Toronto-based novelist and columnist suggested that everyone relax: the simplest and most direct way to correct the imbalance was to stop fretting so much over dust and unmade beds. His point did not go over well with many women, as witnessed on social media.

"You wouldn't think that housework would be the most controversial point in the current moment of 21st-century politics, but there you go," says Marche.

Several journalists wrote angry counter-responses suggesting that Marche's essay painted all women, including his wife, Toronto Life editor Sarah Fulford, as being crazy for their fastidiousness. But now, everyone will have an opportunity to read Fulford's own personal reactions in Marche's new essay collection, The Unmade Bed: The Messy Truth About Men and Women in the 21st Century. The book incorporates previously published work and new essays featuring notes from Fulford — who edits her husband's early drafts — which at times either corroborate or counter his perspective or memories of certain situations. (She expresses both frustration and grudging admiration with Marche's laissez faire approach to domestic chores.)

"I always feel like when I read books about people's marriages that they're lying to me because that's only one point of view. There are always two points of view in every situation in a marriage," Marche says. "I thought this was a way of getting more to the intimacy, and getting a more interesting perspective of how a modern marriage really works. It actually models the process of being in a marriage, where both people get a say."

Through a series of eight essays — starting boldly with Marche trying not to mansplain "mansplaining" — the book covers wide territory, from the resurgence of online pornography to the challenges of parenting children of both genders. Although Marche's theories are backed by numerous studies, The Unmade Bed is a very personal book, in which the author attempts to make sense of his own experiences, including the death of his father and his mixed feelings about becoming a house-dad whose partner makes more money than him.

While researching, Marche was surprised to discover much more hope for change than he expected. "Especially now with Trump and the resurgence of this horrific misogyny globally, it's hard to be optimistic, but then when you look at historical trends, they go one way: men and women are getting more equal," he says. "That is going to continue. It doesn't matter who's in power."

Sure, studies show that women continue to gain more power economically, but Marche also acknowledges that staggering issues still exist, from domestic violence to wage gaps and leadership opportunities. He suggests it's because we're living in a "hollow patriarchy" that is nothing more than a brittle shell, and provocatively suggests that one way to help smash the remnants of this outdated system is for more men to speak up — not as "male feminists" and definitely not as men's rights activists — but as active participants.

"When it comes to gender, men are actually not heard from enough," he says. "I think the silence is very harmful and narrows the conversation around gender, and limits and hurts men, who, at this turning point are experiencing a total reconsideration of their gender and have decided to pretend it isn't happening. I felt like it needed some explanation as to why."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

BEST PICTURE FLUB

Oscars accountants sacked

The president of the film academy says the two accountants responsible for the best-picture flub at Sunday's Academy Awards will never return to the Oscar show.

Cheryl Boone Isaacs told The Associated Press that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' relationship with PwC, the accounting firm responsible for the integrity of the awards, remains under review.

Boone Isaacs broke her silence Wednesday following the biggest blunder in the 89-year history of the Academy Awards.

The wrong envelope in Beatty's hands. GETTY IMAGES

PwC accountants Brian Cullinan and Martha Ruiz were responsible for the winners' envelopes at Sunday's Oscar show. Cullinan tweeted a photo of Emma Stone from backstage minutes before handing presenters Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway the wrong envelope for best picture. Boone Isaacs said Cullinan's distraction caused the error.

The academy has also apologized to the Australian movie producer it incorrectly showed during Sunday's Oscars in memoriam reel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COMIC BOOKS

New laws, same classic Judge

Judge Dredd: The Cursed Earth Uncensored
By: John Wagner, Pat Mills, Brian Bolland and Mike McMahon
Publisher: Rebellion; 208 pages; $25.00

Mike Donachie
Metro | Canada

Judge Dredd is the law, but now a change in the law means some of his rarest appearances can be seen for the first time in nearly 40 years.

Just released in Canada and the U.S., this "uncensored" version of one of the judge's early adventures coincides with the 40th anniversary of 2000 AD, the comic book in which it appeared.

It's an odyssey across a post-apocalyptic desert, with Dredd driving a vaccine to Mega City Two, the disease-hit city on America's western seaboard. He couldn't fly because of rat-infested flying rocks. Just go with it.

There are lots of chapters, and some of the best art the series has ever seen, but the curiosity value is in two stories withdrawn due to trademark infringements and now reprinted after a change in British laws covering satire. Originally, Dredd and his team of cannon fodder encountered the Jolly Green Giant, and the final remnants of the McDonalds and Burger King chains, now locked in bitter territorial disputes. Editorial management freaked out, and the stories were ignored.

And we also get punks, war robots, weeping aliens, a modified Mount Rushmore and a ton of fun along the way. This one's a classic. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

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Sideline the contouring and highlight a new way

MAKEUP

Back on trend and perfect for ethereal, dewy spring look

Samantha Emann
Metro | Toronto

Contouring is still going strong in the beauty world, thanks in part to the Kardashians. But now, along with chiseled cheekbones, highlighters are lighting the way for an ethereal, dewy look for spring.

Fashion and beauty journalist Carly Ostroff, whose work can be found in Flare, Fashion and The Kit, says highlighting is nothing new for makeup professionals.

"For years we have been seeing makeup pros like Pat McGrath using the technique for editorial behind-the-scenes on set and on the runway," says Ostroff. "But now thanks to a new set of products it's really become accessible for all of us."

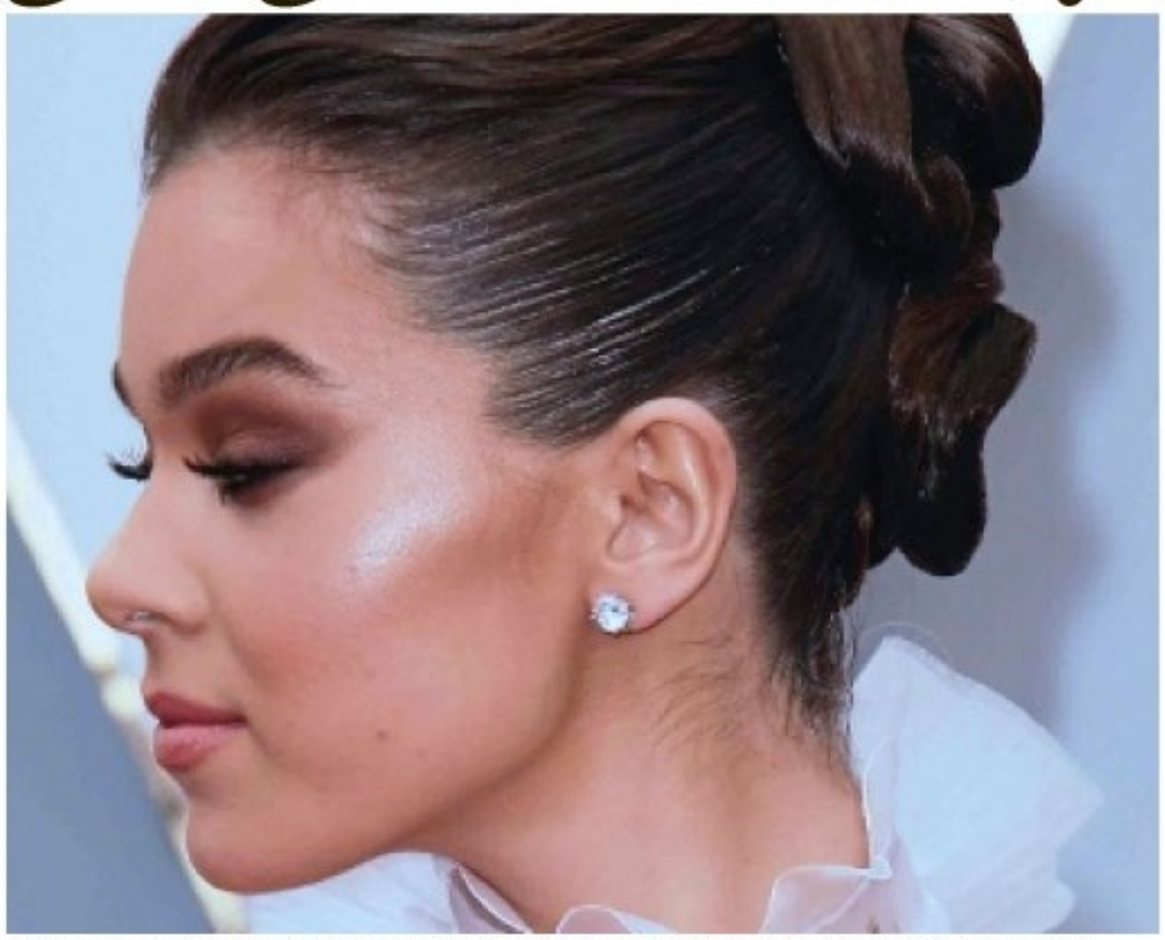
Highlighting is the counterpart to contouring in that it accentuates the places on your face that you want, well, highlighted. Meanwhile, contouring is meant to help you define and sculpt your features.

While some just dust a little on their cheekbones, highlight is also used to accentuate other features, such as your nose and cupid's bow and even your collarbone. And there's two ways to best approach highlighters, according to Ostroff.

"If you want a more made-up look you can go with something super glossy on your cheekbones or for something more low-key you can go for a no-highlight highlighter with a more dewy finish," she says. "You want to apply it right where the light would naturally hit your face."

A mixture of iconic fashion names, beauty YouTubers such as NikkieTutorials and other beauty personalities have got on board, only causing the trend to pick up steam.

"For Spring 2017 we saw highlighting at shows like Brandon Maxwell, Prada, Margiela and Versace, so it's not really showing any signs of slowing down. I think the best part about it now is that it's really easy to get the look at home." Ostroff says.



Actress Hailee Steinfeld rocks a bright cheekbone highlight on the red carpet at the 89th Academy Awards. GETTY IMAGES

Which highlighter is for you?

Here are Metro's top three picks to help get your highlighting game in gear in time for spring ... plus the expert's choice.

1 Anastasia Beverly Hills (ABH) Glow Kit ($59)
Best known for popularizing the contour kit, Anastasia Beverly Hills now has a glow kit to help you customize the highlight to suit your needs. It's pricey but offers a lot of versatility.

2 Kat Von D Alchemist Holographic palette ($44)
This palette shows the evolution from simple one-note highlighters to a more dimensional colour changing shimmer. If you like to experiment with colour and intensity this is the one to pick up on your next Sephora trip.

3 Revlon highlighting palette ($14.95)
Available at places like Walmart and Shopper's Drugmart, this is an affordable option for that more subtle, dewy way to finish off a look or to use as a blush topper.

4 Carly Ostroff's pick: Nudestix skin glossing pencil ($28)
This Canadian company has a highlighter in pencil form that is perfect for beginners and "can't be beat" for a simple, quick way to get your highlight fix.

PICTURES: WALMART/SEPHORA/CONTRIBUTED

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Gossip DIGEST

MOVIES

Affleck addresses sexual assault allegations

In an interview following his Oscar win, Casey Affleck addressed sexual harassment claims against him and said "everyone deserves to be treated with respect in the workplace and everywhere else."

The Manchester by the Sea star had largely evaded questions about the two lawsuits brought against him while making the 2010 mockumentary I'm Still Here, which he directed. The settlement of each case prevents each party from discussing the accusations. Affleck strenuously denies the allegations.

In an interview with The Boston Globe, Affleck said, "I believe that any kind of mistreatment of anyone for any reason is unacceptable and abhorrent, and everyone deserves to be treated with respect in the workplace and anywhere else." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MUSIC

Gaga steps in for Beyonce

Attention, Little Monsters: Lady Gaga is coming to Coachella.

The diva announced Tuesday night she will be performing at the music festival for both weekends in April. Gaga will take the headlining spot that had been Beyonce's; pregnant with twins, the superstar announced last week that her doctors recommended she bow out. She rescheduled her performance for next year. Gaga is set to launch her Joanne world tour this summer, so Coachella will be a warm-up for her of sorts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro HOME

Your essential daily news

Billionaire Warren Buffett lists his six-bedroom, seven-bath Laguna Beach residence for $11M

Floating on water in the Pacific NW

DREAM HOME

Architects build award-winning home over pond

The living and dining room span the width of the pond. Top right: Walls of windows put the pond on display. Bottom right: A stunning view of nature from the bedroom. ALL PHOTOS TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It seems to float on top of the water and, actually, Newberg Residence sort of does.

Just outside of Portland, Ore., the 1,440-square-foot home sits a foot above a pond — like a bridge — with each end sitting on concrete abutments.

The bedroom and kitchen are on the "bridge" ends, the living and dining rooms are in the centre, overlooking water. Steel columns support the home, cantilevering out to cover the kitchen to the west and the bedroom to the east. A covered walkway leads back to a two-bedroom, 550-square-foot guest house.

The original, 15-by-50-foot pond has been excavated and enlarged. The large roof overhangs are designed to protect the glass and wood of the home. The water from the roof drains into the pond. The pond has an overflow and the floor of Newberg Residence is a foot higher than the top of the dam that restrains the pond.

Materials used in the construction of the home include concrete, corten steel and Douglas fir. Highly insulated glass has been used for the windows. The wood and steel came from local businesses. It took 14 months to build Newberg Residence, which was completed in 2015 and last year won the housing design award from the American Institute of Architects.

Architect Jim Cutler, of Cutler Anderson Architects in Bainbridge Island, Wash., answers a few questions about Newberg Residence.

What inspired you to create this house?

The property is part of a larger vineyard but it was steep, lumpy and not suited to being a vineyard. The couple had an area of land on which they wanted to build a house but it was too small. I saw a bit of light through the firs and asked if it was a logging pond that was mostly filled in. I went through the trees to look at it and said, "This is a place to build a house."

How have you arranged the way visitors get to the house?

One of the most ancient and time-honoured tools in the architect's bag is contrast. I felt I could increase the power of this small body of water by contrasting it with a dense, dark arrival. Guests park 100 feet away, walk down a single-file trail through a forest with trees and shrubs, making it more compressive. As you arrive at the building, the view of the pond is blocked but you can see the top of the roof because of the big opening on the other side of the building. Then you open the door and it's a powerful experience. You've gone from this dense, dark, foliage to this big, open pond just by opening the door.

What was your intention with this house?

We thought if we created this small ecosystem it would actually invite wildlife to participate in the drama of their life.

In all our work, we're trying to connect people physically and emotionally to the living systems in this world.

What homeowner Carey Critchlow thinks of Newberg Residence:

It's a great house. It's easy to live in and complements our lifestyle, which is focused around farming, our vineyards and enjoying friends and family.

The three large glass doors allow us to open the house and really experience the connection with the pond and woods. We often cook outside the kitchen, guests flowing in and out of the open glass door. We use the living/dining room door and small deck for reading and swimming. We have many animal visitors — a regular heron we've named Herman, who sits on our decks and wanders about the pond, our rainbow trout, a black bear caught sleeping under our path lights last year, deer, waxwings, wood ducks, merganser ducks, frogs, eagles and osprey.

The home's connection to the land and nature is our highlight. Experiencing the life of the pond, watching it change with the weather and seasons, and time of day.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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5 FLOWERS FROM SEEDS

It's March, which means it's time to start germinating seeds if you want a garden that's in full bloom this year. Get started with these picks. **MARK CULLEN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

1 Nasturtium

Low growing, sometimes with a vine-like growth habit. "Hot colours" that produce for several weeks in the garden. They love the sun but last best in a "cool" part of the garden, facing east. When they look their best, they are stunning. My favourite variety is whirlybird, as they bloom outside of the foliage (while some varieties hide their flowers). Grows to 40 centimetres.

2 Morning glory

A twining vine that needs vertical support at least two metres high, they produce large quantities of medium-sized, trumpet-shaped blue flowers that are attractive to hummingbirds. But here is the catch: they perform best in marginal soil. If you are adding to your garden soil when sowing the seed, be sure to mix in about 30 to 40 per cent clay. When you make growth a little tough for a morning glory, you encourage it to bloom like crazy. Don't fertilize.

3 Sunflowers

Sunflowers can take up a lot of space but man, are they easy to grow! Get kids in on the action, starting on the day of sowing the seeds. They will love the speed with which they explode through the soil and the growth that can occur during one hot, sunny day. If you have an average or small garden, consider some of the popular varieties that only mature to about 50 centimetres or less: junior, teddy bear (pictured here) and dwarf Pacino.

4 Nicotine

An unfortunate name for a wonderful flowering plant. While images of a hacking cough might be on your mind, the truth is you will be blown away by the flower's fragrance, once it is established. Come mid-summer, the nicotine in my garden is the biggest hit, late in the day when the air is still and the hummingbirds are at their peak of activity. "Old fashioned" nicotine produces large clusters of trumpet-shaped flowers. Grows up to two metres high. Loves the sun.

5 Calendula

Pot Marigold. I am not sure how this low-growing flowering plant got the name. It is neither a marigold nor would anyone in their right mind smoke it. All I know for sure is that this plant produces masses of yellow or orange flowers mid-summer. I sow them in a row in my veggie garden and pick them to bring indoors. They stand up quite well in a vase and honey bees frequent the blooms in your garden. An edible flower. Thrives in full sun. Grows to 30 centimetres high.

ALL PHOTOS TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jay Onrait and Dan O'Toole are returning to Canada and TSN after Fox Sports One in the U.S. decided not to renew their contracts

DEADLINE DAY DEALS

OTTAWA-CALGARY

TO SENATORS: JYRKI JOKIPAKKA, D SECOND-ROUND PICK (2017)

TO FLAMES: CURTIS LAZAR, F MIKE KOSTKA, D

TORONTO-PITTSBURGH

TO LEAFS: ERIC FEHR, F STEVE OLEKSY, D FOURTH ROUNDER (2017)

TO PENGUINS: FRANK CORRADO, D

BOSTON-WINNIPEG

TO BRUINS: DREW STAFFORD, F

TO JETS: CONDITIONAL SIXTH ROUNDER

FLORIDA-DETROIT

TO PANTHERS: THOMAS VANEK, F

TO RED WINGS: DYLAN MCILRATH, D COND. THIRD ROUNDER (2017)

LOS ANGELES-COLORADO

TO KINGS: JAROME IGINLA, F

TO AVALANCHE: COND. FOURTH ROUNDER (2018)

Jets stuck in neutral

VIEW FROM THE 300S

Andrew 'Hustler' Paterson

Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck fails to keep a puck from going into the net against the Wild on Tuesday at MTS Centre. TREVOR HAGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

For those that still held out hope of a miraculous late charge from the Winnipeg Jets to the playoffs, Tuesday's 6-5 loss to the Minnesota Wild was a sobering reality check.

After a successful road trip heading into the team's bye week, the Jets had to sit back for a week and see the teams ahead of them pile up wins, further complicating the math for the Jets to be a part of the post-season. After the loss to the Wild, the Jets' playoff odds are now less than five per cent, and barring an unbelievable winning streak out of nowhere, it's next-year time once again in Winnipeg.

So when do things change with this organization? Management has preached a draft and develop plan and has done a good job of drafting some talented young players with very bright futures. But as the talent on the roster improves and the results stay the same, the fan base is legitimately asking more pointed questions of management. And fans are also asking aloud, "Does this team have the right people in place to take the Jets from a talented roster to a quality NHL team competing for a Stanley Cup in the playoffs?"

The Jets' Achilles heel certainly isn't putting the puck in the net — it's keeping it out. For a team that spends more on its defence corps than any other team in the league, the defensive play of the team has been a disaster at times this year. And for all the talk about the Jets being a "young team," the two youngest defenders, Jacob Trouba and Josh Morrissey, have been their most reliable and consistent blueliners this season, not the big-money veterans.

Goaltending in Winnipeg has been pretty much a constant issue for six years and this year has been no different. For all the promise Connor Hellebuyck has shown at times in the net, it has been painfully obvious that he hasn't been able to carry the load alone and the team mismanaged the situation right from camp when Ondrej Pavelec was sent to the minors without even an opportunity to compete for a job in the final year of his contract.

What's even more frustrating to consider about the Jets' current predicament is that they were gifted a franchise player, maybe a generational player in Patrik Laine through the draft lottery last year. Laine has shattered all the expectations for an 18-year-old and will surely finish the season among the league leaders in goals. One would think that that alone would mean a significant improvement from last season in team results, but it hasn't happened.

While there's much to be excited about for the future of the Winnipeg Jets, this season has been a bitter pill to swallow for everyone around the team. Coach Paul Maurice and GM Kevin Cheveldayoff have their work cut out for them to take this team to the next level and regain the confidence of a rabid but disappointed fan base.

NHL

Stafford shipped off to Boston

Drew Stafford is excited to get back into the playoff hunt, even if it means moving out of Winnipeg.

The veteran winger was traded by the Jets to Boston ahead of Wednesday's trade deadline as the Bruins gear up for a post-season push. Winnipeg got a conditional sixth-round pick in the 2018 draft in return.

"It's a great opportunity to get back into the mix. It's very similar to when I got moved (to Winnipeg)," said Stafford, who was traded to the Jets from the Buffalo Sabres ahead of the 2014-15 trade deadline. "It's a team that's right there in the hunt. That's why you play, to play in the playoffs.

"For me to get an opportunity to help them win games. I couldn't be happier."

Stafford has four goals and nine assists in 40 games with the Jets this season. He is a pending unrestricted free agent. The 31-year-old Stafford has 179 goals and 213 assists over his 11-year career. He's played for Buffalo and Winnipeg.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

3

Boston (33-24-6) is third in the competitive Atlantic Division with 72 points.

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Title fight for GSP's return

UFC

Canuck star will face UK champ Bisping later in 2017

Georges St-Pierre, left, and Michael Bisping GETTY IMAGES

Former welterweight champion Georges St-Pierre is starting his comeback with a bang — against UFC middleweight title-holder Michael Bisping.

The two will meet for the 185-pound crown in the second half of 2017, according to the UFC. "It's on," Bisping said in a social media post featuring the fight poster.

The 35-year-old St-Pierre has not fought since November 2013 when he won a narrow decision over Johny (Bigg Rigg) Hendricks for his 12th straight win. The Montreal mixed martial arts star then took a hiatus, saying he needed time away from the sport.

England's Bisping won the middleweight championship from Luke Rockhold at UFC 199 in January 2016, subsequently defending the title against Dan Henderson. The 38-year-old Bisping (31-7-0) had been campaigning for a big-money fight against St-Pierre (25-2-0). St-Pierre's previous UFC fights were all at 170 pounds.

The two fighters are slated to appear at a news conference Friday in Las Vegas prior to the UFC 209 weigh-ins.

For the UFC, St-Pierre versus Bisping is a welcome marquee fight at a time when lightweight champion (The Notorious) Conor McGregor is awaiting the birth of his child, while former light-heavyweight title-holder Jon (Bones) Jones is trying to sort out his life outside the cage and former women's flag-bearer (Rowdy) Ronda Rousey is contemplating her fighting future after beatdowns at the hands of Holly Holm and Amanda Nunes.

St-Pierre was a pay-per-view heavyweight for the UFC at the time of his departure from the sport. He kept training during his time away and had to undergo knee surgery after a practice injury.

The Canadian was known for his elite cardio and ample toolbox, equally able to strike or wrestle. His popularity is shown by the fact that, despite his time away from the sport, he has 1.54 million Twitter followers. Current welterweight champion Tyron Woodley has 132,000.

A well-conditioned fighter who can pepper opponents with punches, Bisping has won his last five bouts including a victory over middleweight icon Anderson Silva. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SOCCER **BARCA GIVE SPORTING GIJON SIX OF THE BEST** Lionel Messi heads the opening goal in past Sporting Gijon's Ivan Cuellar during Barcelona's 6-1 win on Wednesday at Camp Nou. Barcelona moved into first place in La Liga with the win though Real Madrid are just a point back with a game in hand. Real Madrid missed the chance to stay top and dropped two points after salvaging a late 3-3 draw against Las Palmas. After the Barcelona's win, manager Luis Enrique announced he'll be leaving the club at the end of the season. DAVID RAMOS/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Durant out indefinitely with sprained MCL

Golden State Warriors star Kevin Durant will be out indefinitely — perhaps until the playoffs — after he sprained the medial collateral ligament in his left knee and bruised a bone in his leg during Tuesday night's loss at Washington.

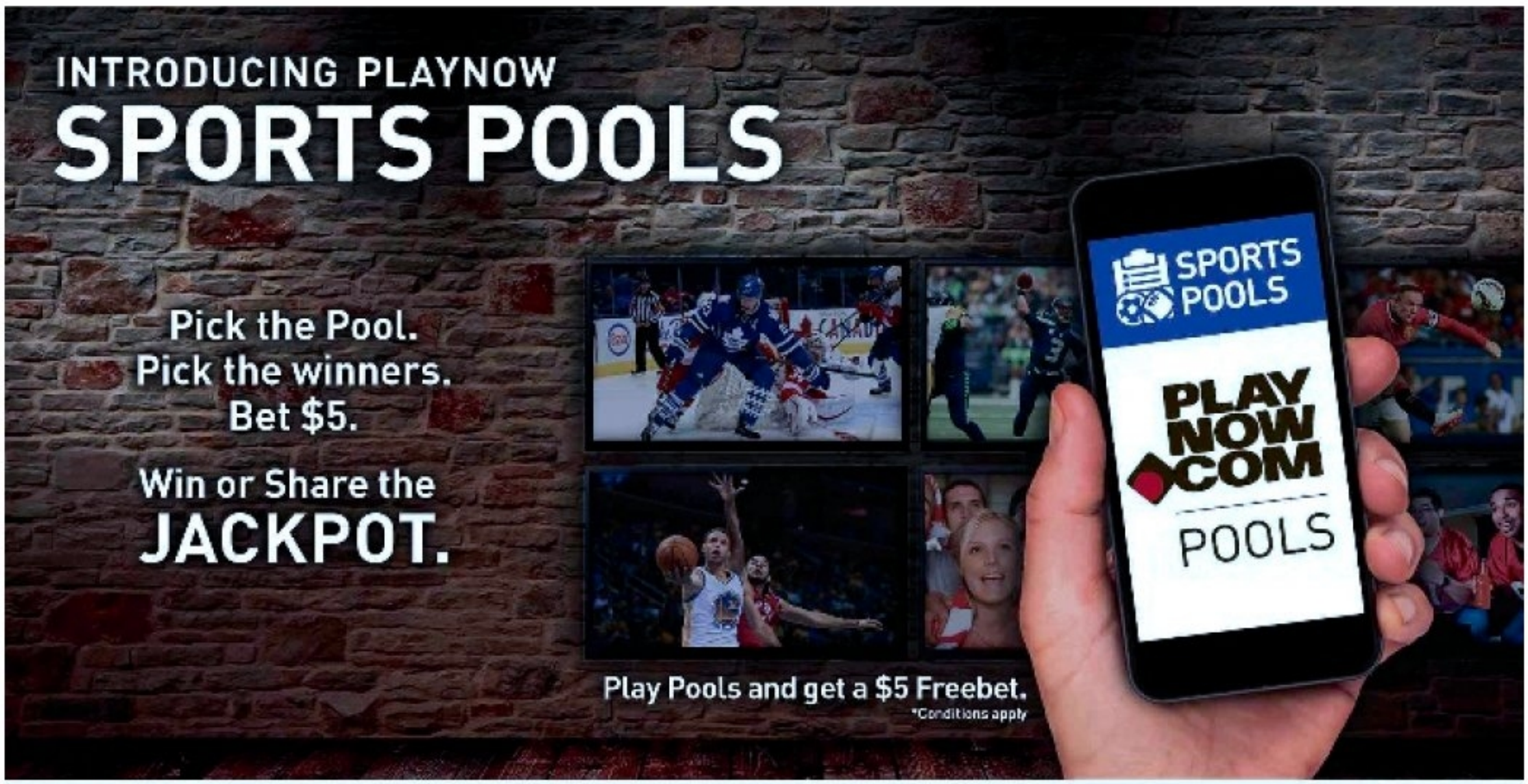
Durant leads the Warriors in scoring and rebounding with 25.3 points and 8.2 boards along with 4.8 assists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL salary cap rises to $167M per team

The NFL salary cap for the upcoming season will be $167 million per team, up more than $12 million over last year.

This is the fourth consecutive year the cap has risen at least $10 million. Player benefits also are included under the 10-year labour agreement reached to end the 2011 lockout. That comes to $37 million per team, bringing the players' total compensation package to over $200 million per club for the first time.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



MAKE IT TONIGHT

Aromatic Shrimp and Vegetable Spaghetti

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Can

This pasta features roasted vegetables and fresh herbs.

Ready in 50 minutes
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves 8 to 10

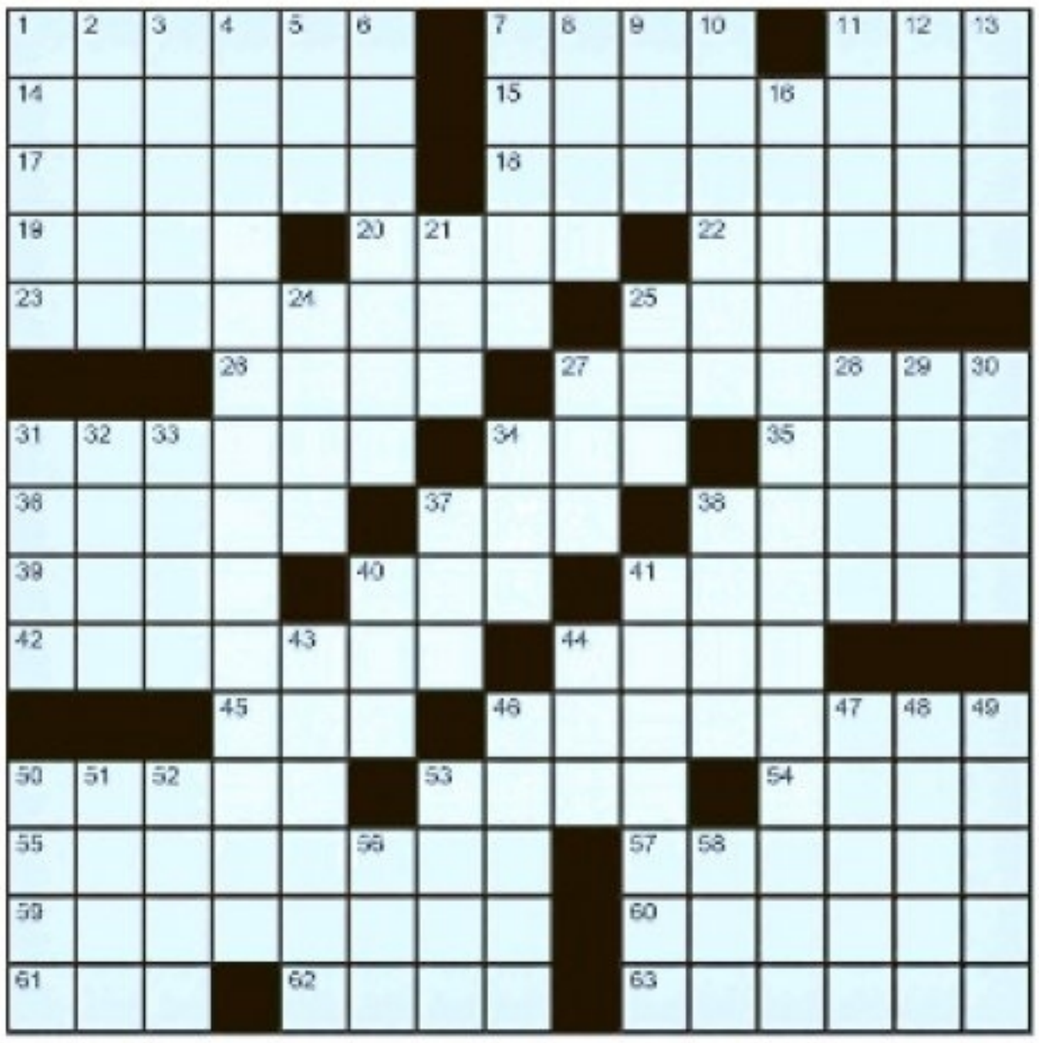
Ingredients
- 1 yellow zucchini, sliced in half lengthwise
- 2 portobello mushrooms, stems removed, caps scooped and halved, then cut crosswise into slices
- 1 red pepper, sliced into quarters
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 Tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped and divided
- 1 Tbsp fresh chopped oregano
- 1 Tbsp fresh chopped rosemary
- 1 1b. thawed peeled deveined shrimp
- 1 Tbsp butter
- 1 box of spaghetti
- 2 large meaty tomatoes, sliced into chunks
- 1 container marinated artichoke hearts, plus a drizzle of its oil
- 1 cup feta cheese• 1 handful fresh chopped basil

Directions
1. Preheat oven to 400. Toss zucchini, mushrooms and red pepper with 2 Tbsp olive oil, balsamic vinegar, 2 garlic cloves, oregano and rosemary to coat.
2. Place vegetables on greased pan and roast; turn once and cook 30 minutes.
3. Remove to platter and cool. Slice s into bite-size pieces.
4. In a large skillet over medium heat, add butter and two garlic cloves and cook till aromatic, about 1 minute. Add shrimp and cook until pink, about 5 minutes. Remove shrimp and juices and set aside.
5. Meanwhile, in a large saucepan of salted boiling water, cook pasta. Drain. Drizzle remaining oil into pasta. Toss vegetables with shrimp and buttery juices into pasta and serve with basil.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. "The Planets" composer Mr. Holst
7. Actress Ms. Sofer
11. "Wowy!"
14. Bury
15. Super self-love
17. TSX units
18. Staircase railing
19. Slant
20. Stompin' Tom Connors' "Bud the _"
22. Haunting 'human'
23. Those lettering-out words
25. Giggling, texting-style
26. Moray-like
27. Stash of weapons
31. , , , , , ,
34. G'days
35. Abominable abode-er
36. Plane, in Quebec
37. Deli serving
38. Jimmy of "L.A. Law"
39. Lima's country
40. Fancy watch face number
41. Ms. Durbin (Winnipeg-born star)
42. Unity
44. Mr. Gagnon (Chicoutimi-born Olympic gold speed skater)
45. Highlander's hat
46. Takeoff/landing locale
50. 'Romeo' sports cars
53. Global, briefly
54. Off the dragon
55. War-like
57. Julia Louis-Dreyfus's character on "Seinfeld"
59. Distinction
60. More tidy
61. _ worth
62. Rugs of Scandinavia
63. Surplus

DOWN
1. Main meanings
2. Not 'Tragically' cool
3. Sedimentary rock
4. _ _ Provincial Park, in southwestern Manitoba near Boissevain, known for the 'Western Painted' shelled creatures found there
5. Soul: French
6. Ships and tankers and dinghies
7. Puzzle type
8. "Blimey!"
9. Oui opposite
10. Martin Short comedy, "Three _!" (1986)
11. Catch _ _ ('Get')
12. Geese: French
13. Actress, Melissa Joan _
16. Juno-winning roots musician who is Natalie MacMaster's cousin: 2 wds.
21. Open with a crowbar
24. Trim
25. "I Love You, Suzanne" singer ...his initials-sharers
27. _-en-Provence, France
28. No, in Munich
29. Notation atop a memo, for short
30. Ms. Kudrow
31. Organized crime chief
32. Baking cookies appliance
33. Soft muddy spot
34. _ polloi (Common people)
37. '_' _ for Langley
38. Feudal worker
40. Belief system
41. Singer Ms. Love
43. _ Island (Statued marvel west of Chile in the South Pacific)
44. US univ.
46. Poker stakes
47. Top rate
48. Street sections
49. Tint-to-hair appliers
50. "So be it!" in church
51. Key _ pie
52. Move like a hummingbird
53. Empire of yore
56. Whichever
58. Mr. Luthor, "Superman" (1978) villain

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Your relationships with partners and close friends might suddenly get a lovely boost or lift today. Someone might compliment you. You might meet someone new who is unusual.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
An unexpected job opportunity might come your way today, or perhaps work-related travel suddenly will appear. Something might even improve your health. Who knows?

Gemini May 22 - June 21
An unexpected invitation for a vacation or a social event might land in your lap today. Love at first sight will begin for some of you. Yes, it's an exciting, fun-filled day!

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Keep your eyes open for real-estate opportunities or chances to improve your existing home today. A spontaneous family gathering might take place.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Unexpected news or an unusual opportunity makes you happy today. Your spirits are high and your optimism is strong. This is just how you like things to be.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Business and commerce are favoured today; in fact, something unexpected might come along that really boosts your income. It might be a new job or something on the side.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
All kinds of opportunities might pop out of the woodwork today. This means you have to keep your eyes open and be ready to act fast.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is a feel-good day. You feel happy with yourself and content with your world. Appreciate your good fortune.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Your popularity will get a boost today because others admire you. This is why you might suddenly be thrust into a position of leadership in a group or class.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Something will happen today that boosts your reputation in the eyes of others. If an opportunity presents itself, you will have to act quickly. Don't hesitate.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
A surprise opportunity to travel might suddenly materialize today. If so, act quickly, because this window will be brief.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Keep your pockets open, because gifts, goodies and favors from others will come your way today. However, they will be unexpected. (What a nice surprise!)

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	7		9		4		5	
6								3
			5		2			
	8	3				9	2	
	6	9				8	7	
			1		3			
3								4
	2		4		5		9	

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games

3	7	9	5	6	4	1	8	2
1	8	4	2	9	7	6	3	5
6	5	2	1	8	3	4	9	7
7	4	8	9	3	5	2	6	1
9	3	6	7	1	2	8	5	4
5	2	1	6	4	8	3	7	9
4	6	7	3	2	9	5	1	8
2	9	3	8	5	1	7	4	6
8	1	5	4	7	6	9	2	3

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